

Connections

June 2008

A Greener, More Energy Efficient MoDOT

by Kristi Jamison

These days the typical household budget is being squeezed by record high gas prices, growing food costs and rising utility rates. Well, just as all of these factors impact your personal budget, causing you to look for ways to cut back, the same thing applies at the workplace.

At a Strategic Advance held last year, one of the directives that emerged was to identify ways MoDOT can reduce its use of both fuel and energy with strategies that lower costs and increase efficiencies within the agency while remaining sensitive to our concern for the environment.

Since then the General Services' Energy Efficiencies Team, led by General Services Director Beth Ring, has stepped up its efforts to identify ways MoDOT can increase energy efficiency in its fleet vehicles and facilities.

As a result, the team will be implementing several steps that will produce both fuel and utility cost savings. Some call for easy actions like turning off the lights when you are the last one to leave a room, shutting overhead doors when garages are not in use or carpooling with other MoDOT staff attending the same meeting or event. Other measures include installing energy efficient lighting and programmable thermostats, applying driving practices that can lead to better fuel consumption and using the right size fleet equipment.

The good news is that every employee can help make a difference. As a matter of fact, the Energy Efficiencies Team is counting on you to help them achieve their goals. By working together to implement these fuel and energy saving actions, we will have a positive impact on MoDOT's bottom line.



Cathy Morrison

The Energy Efficiencies Team consists of mostly General Services employees, including (back row from left) Jaky Traw, District 9; Steve Swofford, Central Office; Beth Ring, Central Office; Kim Tipton, Central Office; Coleen Welter, District 5; Greg Clarkston, CO Organizational Results; Amy Wilson CO Information Systems; Kristi Jamison, CO Community Relations; Barb Burch, Central Office; Joey Hinton, District 2; Darrell Barnes, District 3; Cindy Bebee, District 4; Dennis Foglesong, District 3; Jeannie Wilson, Central Office. Not pictured are: Rodney Osbourne and Todd Roth, District 3; Bill Billings, District 4; Paul Loftin, District 5; and Phil Hamilton, District 9.

Planting the Seeds for a Cleaner Tomorrow

by Lauren Gress

Thousands of kids, students, teachers and parents converged on the capital grounds April 25 to learn about protecting the environment during the annual Earth Day celebration, hosted by the Department of Natural Resources.

"The event is a great way to educate and encourage children and adults alike to take care of the environment and preserve our natural resources," said Don Hillis, director of System Management.

MoDOT workers from Central Office and District 5 teamed up with DNR and several other state agencies to educate visitors about a variety of ways they could help the environment. Besides reminding everyone about the importance of picking up trash, staff went a step further and asked visitors to sign the Litter Pledge, vowing not to throw trash out improperly and to help work toward a litter-free Missouri.



Shaun Schmitz



Cathy Morrison



Cathy Morrison

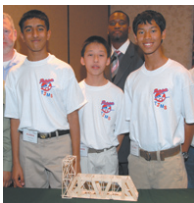
In addition, visitors to the MoDOT tent had the opportunity to learn more about the Adopt-A-Highway and No MORE Trash! programs. Everyone coming by the booth also received detailed brochures, window clings, temporary tattoos and other giveaways, not to mention 3,000 of the ever-popular small white pine trees.

"Besides being a fun way to talk about how to clean up our state, Earth Day is also a great place for MoDOT to educate everyone on what we do to help keep Missouri clean and to protect our environment," Hillis said.

MoDOT hopes all visitors will keep their litter pledge and help keep Missouri clean!

Inside

5



On TRAC to Success
A Jefferson City TRAC TEAM takes top national honors

9



Planning Ahead
District 2 spring meetings prepare employees for the busy season ahead

8



Bridge Scraps and Soup Cans
Steel scraps from the Hermann Bridge will be recycled into cans and other new products

10



Dig In
District 5 breaks ground on its unique shared four-lane project

14



The Next American Idol?
Southeast District Engineer Mark Shelton does his best Axl Rose imitation for a good cause

Spotlight on Diversity

Diversity ... what does it really mean? In the natural sense, diversity is all the ways in which people are different: age, race, gender, ethnicity, mental and physical abilities and sexual orientation. On a social level, diversity occurs in education, income, religion, work experience, language skills or even geographic location.

Then there is diversity in our schools and in the workplace. Diversity in these settings is about having respect for each other and valuing the unique characteristics that each of us adds to a classroom or a work environment despite our natural and social differences.

Recently Dominique Maxwell, the son of Senior General Services Specialist Cheryl Bonner, won a scholarship to the University of Missouri for an essay he wrote in response to the question, “What long-term effect will diversity in college education have on American society?” Excerpts from his response are reprinted below:

“...The world we live in is a heterogeneous mix of cultures. A diverse college atmosphere would better prepare students for a world like the one we live in. A diverse education would allow students to examine their own bias and focus on how they and others perceive differences. It would aide students in building awareness of how cultural differences impact people, organizations, countries and nations. It has been proven that diversity brings society together; which is the reason it is important. A person who has not been introduced to diversity may not fit well into the workplace because he or she is not accustomed to interacting with different cultures, beliefs and life styles.

I feel that the time between college and merging into the working world is the most important time in the development of ones’ self. The bonds and connections made in college will follow a person well after they graduate. Social skills learned through multiculturalism are things that a book or lecture cannot teach. With an understanding of diversity, it would be easy to keep up with the ever-changing ideas, beliefs



Cathy Morrison



Cathy Morrison

and perspectives encountered throughout life.”

We can all learn an important lesson from Dominique’s essay, because diversity doesn’t just have a long-term effect in regards to a college education. Diversity is something that affects our every day life. It is woven into the very fabric that makes up our workplace, our community and our world. There is no doubt that our differences have an impact on us, but it is up to each one of us whether it will influence us in a positive or negative way.

At MoDOT, many of our values are rooted in our diversity. Most directly, we value diversity because we believe in the power of our differences. Indeed, diversity is our strength when we sincerely draw on the unique experiences, skills, talents and viewpoints that each of us has derived from the various cultures in which we were raised. After all, it is those differences that create the dynamic business environment that best serves our agency and our customers.

MoDOT Launches Blog, YouTube Site

MoDOT has taken the leap into online social media. So what’s that mean?

“It means we’ve opened up a dialog with the citizens of Missouri,” said Matt Hiebert, MoDOT Web Manager. “Communication is a two way street. Now that we have a blog and a YouTube presence, people can respond directly to us on the Internet.”

In the past, unless a Missourian called in, sent an e-mail or attended a public meeting, MoDOT didn’t hear much from them. Now, people can post their comments on the MoDOT blog at www.blogspot.modotblog.com or view a video and comment on it at www.youtube.com/modotvideo.

“Today people can discuss transportation issues with us -- and each other

MoDOT is Doing Its Part to Protect Mother Earth

When you think of environmentally friendly practices, building roads and bridges might not pop into mind. Yet the Missouri Department of Transportation is giving back to the environment in a big way. Consider this:

Alternative Fuels

- MoDOT uses more ethanol and biodiesel fuel a year - three million gallons of E-85 and B20 - than all other state agencies combined. That’s enough gas to drive a car to Mars and back.



Recycled Materials

- In 2007, MoDOT used more than three million tons of asphalt containing recycled Illinois, Oklahoma, Nebraska and Tennessee combined.
- In the past four years, the agency has kept more than 3.6 billion pounds of waste from going to landfills. That’s equivalent to the amount of household waste generated in a year by the entire metropolitan St. Louis area.



Courtesy Entire Recycling, Inc.

- MoDOT has used enough recycled tires in its construction projects over the past two years to equip 20,000 cars.
- MoDOT has used enough recycled shingles in the past four years to roof 305 houses.
- MoDOT crews clean up more than 80,000 car tires – about 600 tons – that are left on state highways every year. These tires are ground up and used as fuel for power plants.
- About 70 percent of state highway signs are produced from reclaimed material, making the signs cheaper and faster to get.

- Each year, MoDOT recycles more than 7,000 light bulbs from traffic signals, street lights and office buildings - enough to light 155 homes.
- When striping Missouri’s highways, MoDOT uses 10 million pounds of recycled glass beads.
- In 2007, MoDOT sealed nearly 700 miles of roadway with cinders from coal burned to make electricity.
- All of the rebar MoDOT uses is manufactured from recycled steel.

Wetlands/ Protected Species

- When designing projects MoDOT keeps sensitive species and habitats in mind. In 2007, 15 projects were completed using measures to ensure the safety of nine protected species.
- MoDOT replaced wetlands at a rate of three acres to one on projects built in 2007.
- MoDOT avoided impacting 12 historic resources on 2007 projects.

Energy Conservation

- Using LEDs in traffic signals saves about \$1.2 million in utility costs each year.
- To conserve energy and paper, MoDOT has begun providing project plans via the Internet, a move that will save about \$200,000 a year.



Shaun Schmitz

Natural Product Development/Other

- MoDOT is testing soy-based paint for highway striping.
- MoDOT is using an anti-icing product made from sugar beets to help keep roads clear and cut down on the amount of salt used.
- MoDOT is allowing manufactured sand to be used in the concrete mix on Route 13 in Green and Polk counties.

-- on these open forums,” Hiebert said. “It’s another way Missourians can get involved in their Department of Transportation.”

These developments are part of a new Internet movement called Web 2.0. An organization’s Web presence is no longer confined to just its immediate Web site. Now, visitors to these interactive sites actually help development content

and steer discussion. It is a participatory form of communication.

“We only have a few hard and fast guidelines for posting,” Hiebert said. “No profanity, no politicizing and stay on topic. Otherwise citizens can tell us, and each other, their thoughts on current transportation issues.”

MoDOT is one of the first Missouri state agencies to take these steps.

MoDOT Highly Praised for Design-Build Projects

by Jeff Briggs

The Design-Build Institute of America has awarded MoDOT its Owner of the Year Award for design-build in the transportation field. The award recognizes MoDOT's significant contributions in advancing the awareness, understanding and use of Design-Build project delivery through the innovative approach to handling the first three design-build projects in MoDOT's history. These three projects include The New I-64 reconstruction project in St. Louis, the kcICON project in Kansas City, and the statewide Safe & Sound bridge improvement program.

"This award demonstrates that MoDOT has become a nationally recognized leader in implementing innovative solutions to deliver large-scale highway and bridge improvements quickly and within budget," Director Pete Rahn said. "Ultimately, the winners are the people of Missouri who will get better, safer roads and bridges through wise use of their dollars."

MoDOT's proposal process for its design-build contracts was flexible enough to allow the contractors to bid their work using best practices from departments of transportation across the country. This unique approach resulted in Missouri getting the best project value for the available funds.

MoDOT was also recognized for overcoming several challenges to make Design-Build successful, such as legislative approval; securing funding for the three projects; selecting key staff and educating them on design-build contracting methods; developing documents and reviewing viable proposals; and attracting competitive, capable contractors.

Rahn commend and congratulated MoDOT staff and its partners for the great work that resulted in this award, which was presented April 16 to the directors of the three MoDOT design-build projects at the DBIA 2008 Design-Build Transportation Conference in Louisville, Ky.



MoDOT, Conservation Team Up With Kids To Plant Half A Million Trees

by Jeff Briggs

Half a million trees will be planted in Missouri this year through the Trees For Tomorrow program conducted by MoDOT and the Department of Conservation.



Trees for Tomorrow

Under the program, MoDOT purchases half a million trees a year, which the Department of Conservation distributes to youth groups throughout the state.

"We're very excited about this partnership," said Director Pete Rahn. "Our job of building roads and bridges requires us to remove trees sometimes, and we're committed to replacing them with new ones each year. Trees For Tomorrow is the perfect way to increase the tree population in our state, and by providing

them to youth groups, we're putting trees in good hands that will help them thrive."

Trees For Tomorrow is in the second year of a five-year agreement that will provide 2.5 million trees. More than 60 varieties of tree seedlings go to youth groups throughout the state, including Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, FFA and 4-H groups. MoDOT also funds MDC's long-standing annual program that provides a tree seedling to fourth graders statewide in celebration of Arbor Day. Trees are provided in conservation

areas to improve wildlife habitats, and are made available at annual Arbor Day and Earth Day events.

"Trees For Tomorrow is a great way to get kids involved in protecting our natural resources," said MDC Director John Hoskins. "We're proud to work with MoDOT and kids all over Missouri to get trees planted, improve our environment and enhance the natural beauty of our state."

MoDOT and Partners Advocate for Rail Safety

by Kristi Jamison

MoDOT, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Operation Lifesaver, local law enforcement agencies and railroad personnel joined efforts to promote railroad safety. While positive enforcement efforts began that week, they will continue throughout the year.

A highlight of the event was the unveiling of a new locomotive simulator safety exhibit, which provides the user with a locomotive engineer's perspective of rail guard crossings and the need for motorists to use caution and alertness at rail crossings. The simulator was exhibit was redesigned by students at Linn State Technical College with support from the patrol's Public In-



Multimodal Operations Director Brian Weiler took part in a news conference at the MSHP headquarters museum on April 16 to kick off Rail Safety Week in Missouri.

formation and Education Division and MoDOT's Rail Safety Section.

Between 2006 and 2007, the number of rail crossing collisions in Missouri decreased from 58 to 47. However, fatalities increased from six to seven. There was also a decrease in the number of people injured or killed while walking on railroad property or tracks. Four people were killed in 2007, compared to 11 in 2006.

Five Things You Can Tell Your Neighbors About Adopt-A-Highway

MoDOT administers the Adopt-A-Highway Program to increase public awareness about the environmental needs along Missouri’s highways while at the same time providing positive community support for litter prevention and highway beautification efforts. Here’s five things you can tell your neighbors about the program:

1. Over the programs’ 20-year history, more than 100,000 people have helped clean up Missouri through Adopt-A-Highway. Currently, there are 3,858 adopter groups that have adopted 5,457 miles of highway.
2. Adopters can now adopt stretches of highway solely to plant native Missouri wildflowers.
3. Missouri boasts many different kinds of native wild flowers including coreopsis and purple coneflower. You can see the bright yellow coreopsis flower on the AAH signs statewide.
4. Thousands of volunteers picked up litter during the April No MORE Trash! Bash month. Some of the most common trash reported included fast food wrappers, beer and soda bottles and many paper items and plastic bags.
5. A few of the most unusual trash items were a rocking chair, cell phones, golf balls, a baseball mitt, skiing goggles, a prom dress and much more!



Cathy Morrison

MoDOT Employees Expected to Receive Pay Increase

by Sally Oxenhandler

Thanks to Missouri legislators, we’ll receive a three percent raise this year beginning with the July 31 paycheck. Gov. Matt Blunt has yet to sign the budget bill, which the legislature passed May 8, but is expected to do so. More details on who will be eligible for the increase will be forthcoming.

“This income increase is certainly welcome, and we’re grateful the legislature could make this happen for state employees again,” said Steve Meystrik,

compensation manager for Human Resources.

The average salary at MoDOT is around \$40,000. So a three percent increase means an employee earning the average salary would see a \$1,200 annual pay increase. The additional cost to our budget is approximately \$8.4 million.

Deferred Compensation Increase

The legislature also approved a \$10 per month increase in the amount of

matching funds the state provides to employees participating in the deferred compensation program. If the governor signs the bill, it means the state will now match up to \$35 for the first \$35 an employee defers each month. The previous maximum match was \$25 per month. The minimum match will remain at \$25 per month. CitiStreet, who is the administrator of the Deferred Compensation Plan, is in the process of working out the administrative details of this increased benefit and will be

providing additional information in the event the governor signs the bill. For more information, visit <https://mo.csplans.com/csportal/welcome.do>.

June Service Anniversaries

35 Years	
Randy C. Richardet	D10
Gary W. Bilyeu	CO
30 Years	
Danny J. Wheeler	D2
Rick K. Ellison	D3
Roy R. Hoelscher	D3
Johnnie J. Parks	D3
Wess G. Murray	D4
Harold L. Reeder	D4
Dale A. Baumhoer	D5
Randy W. Raaf	D5
David L. Thuli	D5
Kent M. Bequette	D6
John L. Dixon	D6
Dale K. Clayton	D8
Danial W. Neal	D8
Ralph J. Underwood	D9
David B. Kitchens	D10
25 Years	
Roger L. Baldwin	D1
Rod A. Moore	D1
Larry D. Musick	D1
Norma K. Wood	D1
Scott E. Miller	D2
John P. Morris	D2
David M. Powell	D3
Carl Bradley	D4
Paul J. Russ	D4
Richard A. Gross	D6
Allen W. Wescott	D7
Julie A. Daily	D8
Thomas L. Stehn	D9
Greg D. Hinton	D10
David C. Austin	CO
Richard M. Finley	CO
Mary S. Fontana	CO
Lisa R. Mueller	CO
20 Years	
Roy D. Hogsett	D2
Lee A. Kell	D4
Joe D. Pryor	D4

Randy D. Lamons	D5
Teri D. Feller	D6
Owen W. Hasson	D6
Linda M. Mantia	D6
James F. Blackburn	D8
Jimmy D. McDiarmid	D8
Matthew C. Seiler	D8
Deborah K. Carter	D10
Tina M. Graziano	CO
Keith M. Jacobson	CO
John H. Rice	CO
15 Years	
Scott Gray	D1
Danny J. Rosenbohm	D1
Donna J. Skeen	D3
Jim Beebe	D4
Stephen M. Holloway	D4
Jeffrey S. Davis	D5
Chester Rodden	D5
Jon W. Schneider	D5
Todd M. Siebeneck	D5
George F. Bueker	D6
Richard R. Schneider	D6
Tim E. McDaniel	D9
Gloria J. Perkins	D9
Steven D. Hoernig	D10
Rick D. Fredrick	CO
Sandra K. Hagenhoff	CO
Cristifer D. Kallenbach	CO
Mary K. Plassmeyer	CO
Daniel M. Smith	CO
10 Years	
Jerry D. Adkison	D1
James P. Becerra	D1
Joe W. Howles	D1
Travis W. Pennington	D1
Timothy L. Koch	D2
Joseph D. Edwards	D4
Darryl W. Frerking	D4
Thomas A. Skinner	D4
Jeffrey Halbert	D6
Robert J. Willett	D6

Craig A. Switzer	D7
Sharon R. Herron	D8
Michael S. Crannick	D10
Jennifer D. Light	D10
Mark E. Croarkin	CO
5 Years	
Michael L. Bond	D1
Joe A. Leader	D1
Brian J. Plummer	D1
Kristy M. Plummer	D1
Todd A. Myers	D3
Michael J. Keith	D4
Robert C. Livesay	D4
Nicolas A. Pino	D4
Teresa L. Dove	D5
Larry L. Morton	D5
Jason M. Sommerer	D5
Richard L. Stone	D5
Paul S. Brown	D6
William J. Kacer	D6
Tyson W. King	D6
Michelle A. Phillips	D6
Steven J. Restoff	D6
Heather M. St. John	D6
James R. Wright	D6
Grahm E. Zieba	D6
Laura A. Birkner	D7
Scott E. Claycomb	D7
Scott W. Hill	D7
Richard L. Persinger	D7
Timothy S. Woolstenhulme	D7
Aaron D. Jaeger	D8
Charles R. Polodna	D8
David E. Smith	D9
Anita M. Clark	D10
Robert G. Jordan	D10
Jason A. Ebersole	CO
Jennifer L. Harper	CO
Kristi Hixson	CO
Jennifer J. Jones	CO

Oops! Last month we inadvertently left off two employees celebrating employment anniversaries in May: Alfred W. Weatherington, District 10, 30 years of service; and Paula K. Frisbie, District 1, 15 years of service.

April Retirements

Name	Location	Years of Service
Roger Davis	D2	33
Roger Sedore	D3	36
Elmer Graham	D4	30
Darryl Lamson	D4	18
Susan McCubbins	D4	31
Charles Nyberg	D4	22
Isaac Roberts	D4	30
Kenneth Breidenbach	D6	21
Terry Kelley	D8	30
Johnny Quick	D8	34
Judith Richardson	D8	9
Doris Kunze	CO	31
Mary Shoemaker	CO	22

In Memoriam

Active Employee		
Jim L. Tallman	D7	April 27
Retirees		
Melvin B. Akerson	D2	April 2
Charles A. Lawrence	D10	April 2
Anna Marie Lane-Black	CO	April 3
Lloyd L. Neely	D7	April 3
Merlin W. Fletchall	D1	April 7
Lloyd W. Davidson	D3	April 7
Leo R. Cornell	D7	April 8
Lester M. Riechman	CO	April 10
Christine “Chris” M. McKnight	D1	April 11
Fred L. Bosley, Jr.	D4	April 12
Donald W. Proffitt	D4	April 23
Warren G. Helton	CO	April 24
Billy “Bill” G. Warren	D9	April 25



MoDOT Recognized for Protecting Environment

by Lauren Gress

MoDOT has recently been recognized as one of the most environmentally friendly state agencies for its outstanding use of recycling material. On May 13, the Missouri Recycling Association recognized MoDOT for its outstanding use of recycled materials at a reception at the Hilton Branson Convention Center.

“We work hard to be everyday environmentalists,” said Director Pete Rahn. “We diligently track the impact we have on the environment and measure the steps we’re taking to protect or restore our natural resources.”

In 2007, MoDOT used more than three million tons of asphalt containing recycled material to pave Missouri roads. In the past few years, MoDOT has also

kept more than 3.6 billion pounds of waste from going to landfills and used enough recycled tires in its construction projects to equip 20,000 cars. We have also used enough recycled shingles in the past four years to roof 305 houses.

PR News, a publication that serves the public relations industry, also recently recognized MoDOT as an overall leader in corporate social responsibility, along with such prominent organizations as Energy Corporation, Yahoo! and Southeast Asia and Pacific Gas and Electric Company. In 2007, the Missouri State recycling program recognized MoDOT’s environmental contributions with its annual State Recycling Award.

Operation Orange, MoDOT Minute Win Awards

by Sally Oxenhandler

Our efforts to light the state orange to raise awareness for work zone safety and the weekly MoDOT Minute web cast recently won first place awards from the National Association of Government Communicators.

NAGC is made up of writers, editors, graphic artists and others who work in communications for federal, state and local governments. The awards recognize excellence in government communications.

Receiving awards of excellence were:

- an op-ed from Director Rahn on the “perfect storm” brewing in transportation funding;
- the Traveler Information Map;
- the 2007 State of Transportation Address; and
- the Driving Edge brochure, an informational piece that highlights ways motorists can get travel information.

Linda Rice, public information officer for the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, judged our 2007 Work Zone

Awareness Campaign entry and had these comments: “Very clear in getting the message across. Use of orange lighting of landmarks was creative. Impressive campaign.”

In addition to these awards, *PR News*, a publication that serves the public relations industry, recently recognized MoDOT as an overall leader in corporate social responsibility. We were featured along with such prominent organizations as Entergy Corporation, Yahoo! Southeast Asia and Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

The award recognizes corporations and their partners that have executed highly successful and impactful corporate social responsibility campaigns. Our entry focused on several initiatives that ensure MoDOT’s accountability with the public from environmental responsibilities like recycling to safety efforts, performance management (Tracker) and the investment we make in our workforce.

for more info

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Jefferson City Students Win National TRAC Competition

by Kristi Jamison

Jefferson City middle school students captured first place in the national TRAC competition, a program sponsored by AASHTO that promotes civil engineering and transportation careers to middle- and high school students. The competition was held in concurrence with the 2008 AASHTO Spring Meeting in Branson in May.

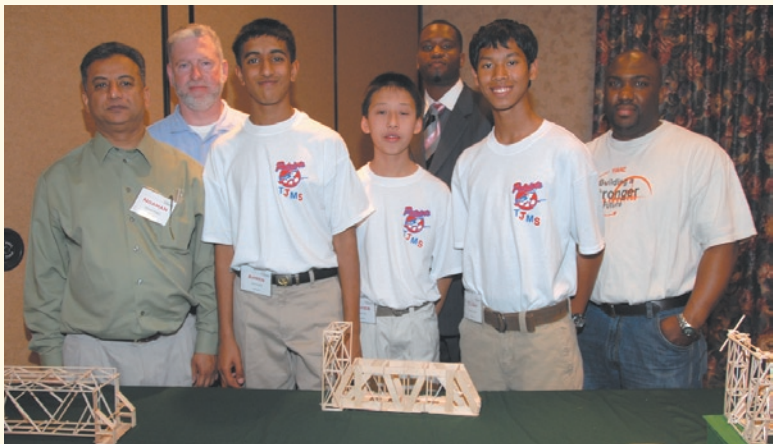
Ahsen Kayani, Hughes Lee and Elijah Livingston, students from Thomas Jefferson Middle School in Jefferson City, won the seventh and eighth grade division’s truss drawbridge category.

This was the first year MoDOT, which oversees Missouri’s TRAC program,

submitted proposals for the bridge competition. The Jefferson City team was selected by an AASHTO panel to advance to the national competition.

The bridge designed and constructed by the Thomas Jefferson TRAC Team held a whopping 188 pounds. Their award-winning work earned them \$1,500 in savings bonds.

In the Central Office, David Williams serves as the TRAC Coordinator, but other MoDOT volunteers assist as well, including engineers Brandon Hansberry, Greg Sanders, Keith Ferrell, Andrew Hanks and Dan Tschirgi.



Cathy Morrison

The Thomas Jefferson team poses with their winning bridge along with, from left, Ahsen Kayani’s father, Central Office TRAC volunteer Greg Sanders, TRAC Coordinator David Williams and Central Office TRAC volunteer Brandon Hansberry.

MoDOT Excels as a Partner in Education

by Kristi Jamison

In April, MoDOT received the Jefferson City Chamber of Commerce Partners in Education Excellence Award for our strong partnership with Thomas Jefferson Middle School.

“It is an honor to be specially recognized by the Jefferson City Chamber of Commerce for our partnership with Thomas Jefferson Middle School,” said Brenda Treadwell-Martin, director of the Equal Opportunity and Diversity Division. “We are proud to participate in the Partners in Education program because it gives us an advantage in molding and recruiting a promising workforce for the future.”

The Partners in Education program is organized through the Jefferson City Area Chamber of Commerce to

promote collaboration between the Jefferson City area business and education communities, provide programs that enable students to achieve academic excellence and enhance economic growth with quality schools.

Thomas Jefferson Middle School and MoDOT have been partners since 2005, collaborating on many activities like student of the quarter presentations, winter concerts, department tours, Make A Plane as part of MAP testing, Dancing with the Teachers competition and the TRAC program. Recently, a new MoDOT/Thomas Jefferson Day was added to educate students about important transportation issues and career opportunities, highway safety, impaired driving and more.



Thomas Jefferson teachers Jeni DeFeo and Kelly Barninger and Principal Roberta Hubbs accept the Partners in Education Award along with MoDOT’s David Williams and Brenda Treadwell-Martin.

D1

Northwest

Take Our Children to Work Day

Story and Photos by M. Elaine Justus

Take our Children to Work Day took place in the Northwest District on April 25 this year, and every year the participating crowd gets bigger and bigger. Ninety-six folks (42 parents and 54 children) joined us for a day of fun and education.

For a number of years, the event has been organized and coordinated by Senior Community Relations Specialist Holly Murphy. Assisting her in the planning this year were District Bridge Engineer Rick Kingery, Maintenance Superintendent Keith Hoover and Senior Transportation Planner Darby Logan. The District Concession's Committee also helped out.

The day began with a group "get acquainted" session where parents were asked to introduce and describe their children. Children were then asked to introduce their parent and tell everyone what they did at MoDOT. Let's just say there were some very surprising job descriptions.

Following introductions, small groups



Forty-two parents and 54 children participated in the annual event this year. It has become immensely popular over the years because of all the planned educational and entertainment activities.

were formed and taken to various "stations" where they got a chance to experience different departments' jobs "hands on." Every year, Holly and her planning committee try to "change things up" and offer different experiences. This year, folks got to experience the Materials Lab by sorting aggregate, the Department of Design by constructing a bridge used for our TRAC program in high schools, and the Human Resources Department put each child through a mock interview. A popular

station was the St. Joe Metro building where children got a chance to see how big actual road signs are and how loud the horns on various pieces of equipment can be.

Everything for the event was donated, including lunch. The Concession's Committee provided food in exchange for "free will" donations.



Project Manager Adam Watson (pictured at the left) used his time with the children to show them how a bridge is constructed, and let them "hands on" participate.

After lunch, the children got an opportunity to spend the rest of the day with their parent at their specific work place. All in all, it was a fun, but exhausting day for everyone involved. It has been suggested more than once that we do something comparable to this for our Northwest District Employees. Comments included: "It's an opportunity to see how other departments work that we, as employees, never get." Perhaps the nicest words have come from Maintenance Supervisor Deon Grigsby's children. In 2006, his son Tristan said it was "the funnest time he had ever had," and his son Cody said he "wanted to come back every year he could." In 2008, Tristan added that it was "awesome." "You put your heart in this event and it shows," Deon wrote to Holly Murphy. "It can make us all proud to bring our kids."



Annelise Puett, daughter of St. Joe Metro maintenance crew leader Earl Puett, had a difficult time trying to explain to everyone just what her father does for MoDOT.



Billy Coats, seasonal worker for Special Crews in St. Joseph, and his son, Trejuan, took their turns at introducing each other (and laughing out loud) to the other employees and their children.

Recent Events



The message board reads, "Belts Save Lives," and that statement is made even more powerful by the totalled MoDOT truck that sits beside it. Not only did seatbelts save our two workers' lives, but the lack of one almost killed the young man that pulled out in front of them. This display sits in front of our District Office for the month of May.



Retired Customer Service Representative Connie Hale now works for Community Relations as a 1,000 hour employee. On May 14, she, Regional Maintenance Supervisor Jason Utz and Buckles the Bear made a trip to the Baptist Church Pre-School at Plattsburg. The kids learned about seat belts, how workzones are set up, how concrete is made and what MoDOT dump trucks look like. Their favorite word for the day was "aggregate."

Senior Community Relations Specialist Holly Murphy is in charge of the Adopt-A-Highway program for the Northwest District. On April 17, she made a presentation to the South Side Rotary of St. Joseph about the No MOre Trash Campaign, and presented them with a certificate honoring their 10 years of participation in the program. Accepting the award is MoDOT retiree Reed James who, ironically, was in charge of AAH during his tenure, and remains active in the program.



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D2

North Central

Employee Spring Meetings Kick off Busy Maintenance and Construction Season

by Tammy Wallace

The district's annual employee spring meetings are the kick-off to our busy maintenance and construction season. This year a large number of topics were discussed and a wide variety of team members led those discussions.



Display boards on some of the topics interested many of those attending the spring meetings.

The meetings give employees the opportunity to look ahead at what's in store for the district in the coming months and discuss statewide programs and initiatives.

Employees not only gain a district and statewide perspective on various issues, they also get to see their co-workers in a very different setting, and enjoy visiting with each other on breaks and during lunch.

Topics of discussion included:

- District Business Plan
- 09-13 STIP
- Upcoming Construction and Maintenance Work
- Bridge Maintenance Direction
- Minor Roads Initiative

- Solutions at Work
- Tool and Equipment Challenge
- Adopt-A-Highway Program

Additionally, presentations and videos on the Missouri Quality Award, Employee Assistance Program and Missouri's 429 College Savings Plan were including during the meetings.

Mixing up the presentations with the videos was a nice change in the format, and it gave employees the opportunity to see Pete's acceptance speech for the Missouri Quality Award.

Employees were also given the chance to see the MoDOT value statement posters and miscellaneous photos of

district projects and events as they transitioned on the big screen prior to the meetings and during lunch.

Performance Based Pay Questions Answered by the Experts

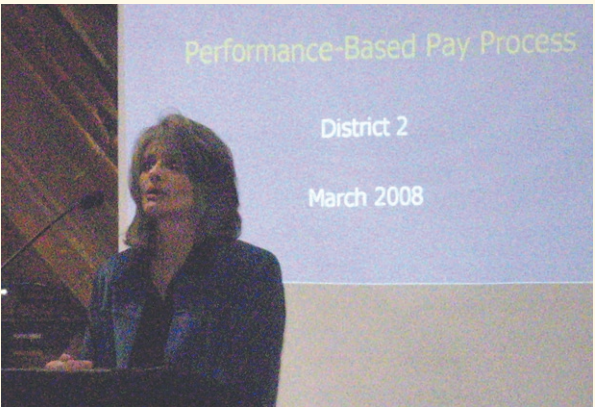
One agenda item generating a lot of discussion was the new Performance Based Pay Program. We learned about this new program by the experts, as Human Resources Director Micki Knudsen, Special Projects Coordinator Mollie Leblanc, and the District's Human Resources Manager Ellen Gehring were available to discuss the new program and field questions.

Employees area always interested in hearing information that Human Resources has to share, so it was great that Micki and Mollie took time out of their schedules to join us in the district.

Everyone heard first hand how high-performing employees can be rewarded through this new program and earn extra pay.

Later in the day District Engineer Dan Niec led "Fact or Fiction," which this year centered around the Performance Based Pay topic.

It was obvious from the "Fact or Fiction" discussions that everyone had been paying close attention to Human Resources's presentation.



Human Resource Director Micki Knudsen provides the facts on Performance Based Pay.

Additionally, surveys taken by employees after the meetings showed they understood the details of the program, and the majority of the employees agreed that rewarding our top performers is the right thing to do.

Thanks to Micki, Mollie and Ellen for allowing our district employees to get the facts on Performance Based Pay and to all team members who prepared presentations to keep us informed as we head into our busiest season.



Assistant District Engineer Kevin James leads a discussion on the Adopt-A-Highway Program.

On The Job Cable Training

by Travis Wombwell

Last month District 8 Maintenance Superintendent Armin Herrman and two of his crew members, Tom Gerleve and Jeff Roberts, made a special trip to the district to give some on-the-job training on our high-tension guard cable. This cable was installed in the median of Rte. 36 in Macon County near Rte. 63 as part of the fix to the Rte. 36 corridor. While we have other guard cable along Interstate 70 in Saline County, this is the only high-tension cable we have in the district.

We currently handle repairs to the cable on I-70 through an on-call contract and we have a similar contract for repairing guard rail throughout the district; but after this training we'll continue to handle repairs to the high-tension cable ourselves.

After the cable was hit, District 2 Maintenance Superintendent Paul Hague worked with the Macon Construction office to get the right specifications and with Intermediate Procurement Agent Bill Noyes to get the replacement

posts ordered. When the posts came in, Moberly Maintenance crews put the cable back up and Maintenance Superintendent Dale Niece contacted Armin who was more than willing to show us how to get the tension right.

Maintenance Supervisors Keith Porter and Chris Switzer met up with everyone on the job and helped the District 8 crew tension the first two cables to around 6,000 pounds-force. Then Chris and Keith tensioned the third cable as the District 8 crew watched and gave pointers. All agreed that it was easy to do once you've been shown how.

The meter and other tensioning equipment is fairly expensive so the district won't be purchasing this equipment. District 8 has agreed to let us borrow their equipment twice each

year to adjust the tension as the cable expands and contracts, and to reset it after any future damage.

We really appreciated Armin, Tom and Jeff coming up to help us and we didn't let them leave empty handed. Dale loaned them one of our inmate vans to jump-start their litter control plan on Interstate 44 under the new interstate corridor concept.



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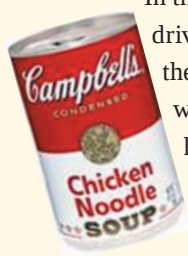
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D3

Northeast

Soup In That Recycled Can, Anyone?



In the months to come, drivers may not realize they're zippin' around with a little piece of history on their front fenders. Then again, families may not know their can of chicken noodle soup may have once spanned the Missouri River. Even though the Hermann Bridge is now just a memory since its implosion, more than 2,000 tons of the steel in the truss is being recycled for products like automotive fenders and soup cans. According to the Steel Recycling Institute, two out of every three pounds of new steel are produced from old steel. Unlike other industries, recycled content in the steel industry is second nature, and North America has been recycling steel scrap for over 160 years. "The Hermann Bridge had been around since 1930, so there were a lot of people in the community who actually teared up when it imploded," said Martin Lincoln, resident engineer overseeing the project. "I think they'll be glad to know the bridge will continue to serve communities like theirs, just in a different way."



More than 2,000 tons of steel from the Hermann Bridge will be recycled for potential use in soup cans and automotive parts.

New, to Unused, to New and Used

According to Transportation Project Manager Rick Domzalski, MoDOT is using four bridge girders to replace a bridge in Clark County that were originally to be used in the L'outre River Bridge north of the new Senator Christopher S. Bond Bridge near Hermann.

"It was determined during construction on the Bond Bridge project that we could reduce costs by using in place more of the existing L'outre River bridge and taking ownership of eight already-produced, 91-foot girders for use elsewhere," Rick said. The design team was able to incorporate these girders into the bridge, which allowed the district to do a job "better, faster and cheaper!" The other four girders from the Bond Bridge project will be used later in another bridge project.

Trash Bashers Invade Drive-Throughs

For three days at the end of April, Trash Bashers of the Northeast District set up "shop" at fast-food restaurants

throughout the district to remind drive-through patrons to put trash in its place. The Trash Bashers gave drive-



Area Engineer Jennifer Hinson gives a trash bag and Missouri map to a Wendy's drive-through patron in Palmyra during the Northeast District's No MOre Trash Bash event.

through goes a trash bag, information about decomposition of products that are frequently tossed out the car window, and all were offered a Missouri map.

"We were glad to be part of reminding people to dispose of trash properly," said Hannibal Sonic Manager Lowell Short.

The Utility Challenge

The Utility Challenge might be what one would call a little "environmental-friendly" competition with a trophy, time off and lunch as the prizes. One could also say it supports the MoDOT value of "providing the best value for every dollar spent." Yet another could shout that it's just the right thing to do!

The challenge was created to encourage departments and work units to reduce their utilities by 10 percent over the same time last year. "We knew this was going to be challenging because utility costs continue to rise," said Assistant District Engineer Dave Silvester. "However, we also knew that gentle reminders could at least create top-of-mind awareness to the folks who can make a difference, and it's starting to work. We were not asking our staff to do anything they wouldn't do at home – turn out the lights, lower the heat when you're not home, carpool. Basically, we just wanted to remind everyone to be conscientious of our resources and work to conserve them."

The challenge came about when Director Pete Rahn emphasized the importance of energy efficiencies at a Tracker meeting. Following that meeting, District Engineer Paula Gough asked that our district begin looking at our utility costs to find room for improvement. Darrell Barnes, Todd Roth, and Sherri McGregor began the task to evaluate what had been done from a facility perspective (siding, windows, etc.) and to see where other improvements still could be achieved.

Each month, the Business and Benefits Department runs a report to track the monthly expenditures associated with our electricity, water/sewer, propane and natural gas costs by work unit. An average cost per month is then calculated. The goal is to get the average cost per month 10 percent lower than what we spent last year on average.

Sherri, who is the support services manager, reported that though none of our work units have achieved this 10 percent decrease yet this year, we are seeing progress. "We have seen a decline in the average cost per month the past two months," she said. Just for the month of April, the average utility cost has been reduced by over \$2,700. "Twenty-nine of thirty-five work units showed improvement this month, and we are hopeful this trend will continue," she added.

General Services Director Beth Ring has commended the Northeast District on the work that they have put in on this project. The statewide Tracker now has a measure to monitor utility costs, and work is under way to make improvements to our data reporting system so that actual usage information can be pulled for comparison purposes.

"This will be extremely beneficial as we work to see that we are doing everything we can to conserve our energy resources, even with ever increasing utility rates," Dave said. "In turn, it is our hope that the savings we reap can be utilized toward roadway improvements and maintenance down the road."

8

52-Mile Project Wins Award

During the TEAM Conference, the 52-mile Route 36 four-lane project was given the practical design award for large projects. MoDOT employees from Hannibal and Macon worked together to



Brian Haeffner (D2), Rolla Rentz and Rick Domzalski accept the practical design award for Route 36.

make the project more affordable and to deliver it sooner than expected.

"We have excellent employees within our districts and central office who worked together on many other levels in order for the contract to be awarded in about 26 months," explained Northeast District Engineer Paula Gough. All four lanes will be open by November 2009, and 50 percent of the construction cost was financed through a ½-cent sales tax passed in four counties. "The Route 36 project is a good example of what can be accomplished through partnering and innovation," she concluded.

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Shelbyville team members Charles Hubbard and Kandi Garner took it upon themselves to make sure the students at North Shelby High School were reminded to wear their seat belts by painting the "buckle up" sign on the school parking lot. "We just can't do enough to remind these kids to buckle up," Charles said.

D4

Kansas City Area

Kansas City Scout Now Provides Streaming Video to Mobile Devices

by Gina Myles

On April 10, KSHB-TV Channel 41, the NBC-affiliate in Kansas City, in conjunction with Kansas City Scout and 3rd Dimension launched a free mobile traffic camera service for area residents and commuters. The advertising supported service, named KSHB Traffic Jam Cell Cams, targets the more than 150,000 daily commuters in the region who will now be able to view traffic tie-ups on their mobile devices.

The KSHB Traffic Jam Cell Cams rely on the 106 traffic cameras owned and operated by Kansas City Scout covering more than 90 miles of Kansas City metropolitan freeways.

“The Kansas and Missouri Departments of Transportation are pleased

to develop an enhanced partnership with KSHB and 3rd Dimension to provide streaming video to the motorists of Kansas City,” said Jason Sims, Kansas City Scout traffic center manager. “This partnership provides not only enhanced services to Kansas City commuters, but it further maximizes Scout’s comprehensive camera network.”

3rd Dimension Inc., a New York-based mobile marketing and application company, developed the system technology.

“Cell phones are becoming an important part of our culture and are growing increasingly more powerful and personal,” said Eric Joseph, president, 3rd Dimension. “The 3rd Dimension



Jason Simms, Kansas City Scout traffic center manager, welcomes partners KSHB TV and 3rd Dimension in providing the newest enhancement to the KC Scout system. Commuters and motorists will be able to receive streaming video via cell phones.

real-time traffic application supports that trend in providing a value-added service to consumers whenever they need it.”

The KSHB Traffic Jam Cell Cams application is compatible with data enabled phones on the Sprint, Verizon Wireless, AT&T and T-Mobile networks, and including popular smart phones such as the BlackBerry, Palm Treo and the Motorola Q. To download the video application, commuters have the option to call 877-JAMCAM8 (877-526-2268) from their cell phone, go to the www.kshb.com Web site and request the service by

entering their mobile phone number, or typing www.3tcam.com/kansas-city on their cell phone’s Web browser. Once the application is downloaded, drivers can choose to view near real-time traffic images from any of the cameras along their route and can even program keys on their phone to quickly access their favorites.

Kansas City Scout is very excited to be a part of this project. This joint venture attests to the benefit of partnership between Scout, a public entity, and KSHB and 3rd Dimension, private sector companies.

Representative David Pearce Visits District 4

by Kerri Lewis



State Rep. David Pearce, right, visited the Warrensburg Maintenance Building in District 4 to personally thank crews for all their hard work.

The Missouri House of Representatives recently honored MoDOT crews with a House resolution thanking them for their diligence and dedication to keeping Missouri roads clear and safe during the winter storms and spring floods. David Eppright, Warrensburg Maintenance Crew Leader, was one of MoDOT’s employees invited to Jefferson City to receive the House resolution.

State Rep. David Pearce visited the Warrensburg Maintenance Building in District 4 to personally thank crews for the outstanding jobs performed during these events, presenting them with the resolution. He applauded all the district crews during his visit.



Road crews were busy this past winter season keeping District 4 roads clean and clear for motorists’ safety. Crews’ diligence and dedication were applauded during a recent visit from Rep. David Pearce.

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Maintenance personnel gather for a photo with Rep. David Pearce, front row center.

Road crews were busy this past winter season keeping District 4 roads clean and clear for motorists’ safety. The district used more than 50,000 tons of salt, the second highest in the state, to maintain safe roadways. Many employees were on call to respond to the storms that hit mostly on weekends.

During the recent spring floods, crews monitored rising waters and closed roads when the water approached the roadway. In addition, crews removed debris in cases where the water receded.

D5

Central

Breaking Ground on Two Big Construction Projects

Motorists in Columbia and the Lake of the Ozarks can expect safer and easier travel on two major routes through those areas. MoDOT broke ground for the Route 763 widening project in Columbia on April 16 and for Route 5 south of Camdenton on May 12.

Nearly three miles of Route 763 will be widened in Columbia, from Big Bear Boulevard to Route 63. When completed, the highway will have four lanes separated by a raised median. It will also have six-foot sidewalks and seven-foot shoulders with bike lanes. Work on the route also includes four signalized intersections and one roundabout at Route VV and Prathersville Road.

Representatives at the Route 763 groundbreaking included city and county officials, who cited the smoother traffic flow, safety improvements and economic benefits that will occur as a result of the project. District Engineer



Cahty Morrison

Local and state dignitaries pose with the five-handled shovel during the Route 763 groundbreaking in Columbia.

Roger Schwartze thanked the individuals and business owners along the route, because approximately 35 percent of the right of way needed was conveyed by the property owners without monetary compensation. The \$13.9 million project will be complete in fall 2009.

The ceremony on May 12 celebrated the unique “shared four-lane” project now under way in Camden County on Route 5. A shared four-lane highway consists of alternating passing lanes along a conventional two-lane highway to provide motorists with periodic opportunities to pass other vehicles without having to drive in the opposing lane.

The \$11.4 million grading project will

relocate approximately eight miles of existing highway between Camdenton and the Laclede County line. At the Laclede County line, MoDOT will modify the existing Route 5 under a separate construction project to continue the shared four-lane to Lebanon.

State and local officials at the groundbreaking ceremony expressed their appreciation for the cost effective and unique design that will handle traffic flow between Camdenton and Lebanon.

The grading project in Camden County will be completed in fall 2009. Paving operations for the entire 18-mile shared four-lane project will be complete by mid 2010.

April Showers Bring More Than May Flowers

by Holly Dentner

According to the National Weather Service, Columbia had its third wettest start of the year since 1893, receiving 19.28 inches of rain since Jan. 1. That’s over six inches from the normal amount, and much of the Central District faced similar conditions.

The heavy rainfall, combined with the short time frame in which it fell, led to a record number of slides along mid-Missouri highways. The slides occur when the ground under or next to the road becomes overly saturated, sending it sliding down the right of way and sometimes taking the shoulder or roadway with it. Eighteen separate incidents in six of the district’s 13 counties have kept maintenance and survey employees busy over the past few months.

The biggest slide occurred in Camden County, near the Niangua Bridge on Route 5. A steep slope at the Lake Road 5-72 overpass of Route 5 began shifting in March. The slide has forced motorists to use a detour around the lake road, but traffic on Route 5 and the Niangua Bridge has not been affected.

Design employees are completing plans for the repair.

Maintenance crews have already repaired a smaller slide on Interstate 70 in Cooper County. It was located near the 88 mile marker and required one westbound lane closure during the work. It did not damage the roadway, but did damage the shoulder.

The other slides have occurred in Boone, Callaway, Camden, Gasconade and Pettis counties, but many of them have just affected the roadway shoulder. As the repairs are scheduled over the summer, crews will continue monitoring their conditions and expect no additional detours.



Ed Howser

The ground beneath Lake Road 5-72 slid down the hillside near the Niangua Bridge on Route 5 in Camden County.



Holly Dentner

A representative from Dave Kolb Grading, Inc. breaks ground near the centerline of the future Route 5 in Camden County.

District’s Green Spotlight

by Holly Dentner

As one of Missouri’s largest state agencies, MoDOT uses lots of materials and energy to get the job done. But we are also committed to finding ways to reduce our imprint on the earth and become even more environmentally responsible.

District 5 is one of several districts this summer to try cold in-place recycling, which is still a new process for MoDOT. It the first time we’ve tried the process in the Central District, and we have selected a section of Route 63 in Osage and Maries County to see how well it works on our routes.

“We will reuse an estimated 55,000 tons of asphalt on 15 miles of Route 63 this summer,” said Patty Lemongelli, district construction and materials engineer. “The resurfacing train will run from Route P in Osage County to south of Route 28 in Maries County, near the Gasconade River.”

The cold in-place recycling involves the contractor milling down four inches of the existing highway. Machinery will crush it to proper size, combine it with the necessary additives and roll

the “new” material onto the highway. A 1¾-inch overlay of Superpave mix will go down on top of the new surface to protect it.

“Cold in-place recycling takes place in a single operation, so the surface is removed, processed and replaced all at once,” said Lemongelli. “We reuse material, but we also save time and reduce the impact to travelers, too.”

The Central District will go green this summer in other ways, too. We are incorporating other recycled material into our projects, from adding old roof shingles and slag ash to our pavement components to putting recycled glass beads in our striping jobs. And we continue to promote cleaner roadsides with the Adopt-A-Highway program in full swing. Our own Central District group of Adopt-A-Highway volunteers have already been out once to pick up trash on Route 94 in Callaway County.

Whether on a large or small scale, we work hard to track the impact we have on the environment and measure the steps we take to protect and restore our natural resources.

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D6

St. Louis Area

Interstate 64 Project Goes Green

by Whitney Ehinger

The New Interstate 64 Project has turned a lot of heads in the St. Louis area where municipalities, businesses, residents, commuters and the media are all intrigued by the benefits that the 10 miles of fully reformed roadway will soon bring. Now environmentalists can be added to that list. Recycling has become a large part of everyday operations during the beginning phases of roadway reconstruction.

Pavement crews are recycling old concrete and asphalt and preparing it for reuse on the new highway. During a process called rubblization, a resonant beam rubblizer fractures old pavement slabs at a 45-degree angle. All reinforced steel is destroyed, but the roadway base

remains undamaged, so crews can lay new pavement on top of it.

“The process allows us to reuse concrete and asphalt products on the job, thereby eliminating the need to haul good materials off to a landfill,” said Deputy Project Director Ron Morris.

Crews on the New I-64 Project have removed and processed more than 126,000 tons of concrete and asphalt that used to be I-64 structures, road surface or road base. More than 43,000 feet of guardrail has also been recycled into scrap steel that won’t be reused on the project, but has eliminated the need to haul the large pieces of metal to a landfill. By the end of the project, an estimated 273,000 tons of concrete and 52,000 tons of asphalt will be recycled.



A concrete crushing operation reduces rubble from Interstate 64 near Brentwood Boulevard into gravel for a future roadbed.



An aerial view shows Brentwood Boulevard at Interstate 64.

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MoDOT and Elected Officials Pick Up Trash to Kick Off No MOre Trash! Bash

by Kara Price

Several transportation partners went “green” this April to make Missouri beautiful during the annual No MOre Trash! Bash. MoDOT officials, local elected officials, law enforcement and directors from local public agencies kicked off the “green” efforts by picking up trash at Ohlendorf Park on Spring Drive and along a stretch of Interstate 55 near Bayless Avenue in early April. This event is part of the month-long, 2008 No MOre Trash! Bash sponsored by the departments of Transportation and Conservation to clean up Missouri.

Those who made a stand for a litter-free state at the No MOre Trash! Bash kickoff event included: Charlie Dooley, St. Louis County executive; Garry Earls, St. Louis County Government chief operating officer; Sergeant Al Nothum, Missouri State Highway Patrol; Chief Jerry Lee, St. Louis County Police Department; Mary Lou Green, executive director of Operation Brightside and other MoDOT officials.

These partners stressed for St. Louis area residents to take a few hours to make Missouri beautiful during the No MOre Trash! Bash by joining them in efforts to clean up Missouri and work toward a litter-free state.

The goal of the annual No MOre Trash! Bash is to spread awareness on doing more than just picking up trash by getting Missouri residents and tourists to stop littering, realize it is unhealthy and understand that it is against the law!

Last year’s No MOre Trash! Bash was a huge success with thousands of volunteers picking up more than 72,000 bags of trash from Missouri’s roadways and streams. Groups also picked up untold numbers of tires and other items too big to place in trash bags. It’s easy to help during the annual event by either scheduling your own pickup or attending local or state clean-up events.

Volunteers who chipped in last April included MoDOT crews, Missouri Department of Conservation Stream Team members and other employees, Adopt-A-Highway volunteers, incarcerated crews and other volunteers. Each year, MoDOT alone spends over \$5 million to clear litter along highways throughout our state, which is mostly litter that people have thrown out the vehicle windows.

More than 3,700 Adopt-A-Highway groups and 3,502 Stream Team volunteers spend countless hours on litter cleanup, but litter continues to line our roads and streams. With the money spent on litter cleanup, MoDOT could resurface many miles of roads, replace and repair bridges, improve habitats for wildlife and people and enhance parks and nature centers.

For more information about the No MOre Trash! Bash or litter prevention, visit our Web site at www.nomore-trash.org. Imagine a litter-free Missouri...No MOre Trash!



MoDOT, St. Louis County and Operation Brightside, along with several other partners, show their support for a litter-free Missouri by helping pick up trash along Interstate 55 near Bayless Avenue.

D6

St. Louis Area

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MoDOT, St. Louis County and Operation Brightside, along with several other partners, show their support for a litter-free Missouri by helping pick up trash along Interstate 55 near Bayless Avenue.

D7

Southwest

One Team Chips in to Help During Illness

by Lori Marble

“I’ve learned Jim Tallman is one of the strongest people I know.” District Engineer Becky Baltz wrote these words in her 2007 end-of-the-year letter to employees.

At that time, Land Surveyor in Training Jim Tallman was in the middle of his second year battling cancer. He had exhausted his initial treatment method and was committed to an experimental program. Throughout the year he divided his time working out of his MoDOT office in Joplin and periodically, while receiving cancer-fighting drugs in St. Louis, in the District 6 office. He worked when we know he wasn’t feeling well. His work ethic was an inspiration to all of us.

It was without much surprise, but great sadness, that Tallman’s fight ended in late April. He rebounded so many times before that when this horrible, hateful disease finally proved too much, it caused everyone to pause. As a group, we had long ago forgotten what a strong connector Jim Tallman had become. His strength and personal resilience had become ours as well. We were fighting with him in our own, small ways.

To let Tallman know we were thinking of him while he waged his



Doug Jackson, Scott McKee and Rick Black (l-r) prepare to put their backs into it and move a great amount of leaves during the yardwork cleanup evening at Jim Tallman’s home.

battle, Traffic Senior Administrative Technician Vicky Luciano and Senior Traffic Specialist Lanette Bronson created small inspirational cards and attached green support ribbons to them. The card read, “The color GREEN symbolizes good luck, life eternal, hope, renewal, and health! Let’s support Jim with a little ‘Green’ today.” Quietly, without fanfare, Luciano placed a bowl of these on the counter by her desk. In minutes they were gone, as co-workers

snatched up the visual reminders. The next day there were more, and again we all wore them.

MoDOT family had descended on Tallman’s home only two weeks before his death in order to quickly complete some needed yard work following the severe storms of winter and early spring. It was just one way folks could help and express their love for their friend and co-worker.

Tallman was 60 when he passed away. He lived in Joplin for the last 30 years, working at MoDOT for the past 11. One of his longtime friends and co-workers, John Lacey, provided these words at Jim’s passing:

“Friends are miles, laughs and tears.

Friends are days and minutes, months and years.

Friends are joy, fears and pain.

Friends are hopes and dreams that never go away...

...A friend gives hope, when life is low.

A friend is a place, when you have nowhere to go.”

Brian Atnip, land survey supervisor, has a quotation he likes: “If your absence doesn’t make a difference, then your presence won’t either.” Jim Tallman’s absence is deeply felt - almost as much so as his presence.

Kid Day Curriculum is Teacher Approved

by Wendy Brunner-Lewis

District 7 had a great turnout for Bring a Child to Work Day on May 6.

Approximately 40 kids made asphalt cookies (no-bake cookies), built roads and bridges from imaginary regions to an imaginary city and toured the Route 249 Range Line bypass project in Jasper County.

The imaginary city was the brainchild of Traffic Senior Administrative Technician Vicky Luciano, who dubbed it “MoDOT-opoly.” The kids were divided into four groups, and each group had a team leader, who was named the operations engineer. Each group had to work together to devise the



Aaron Renfro, left, Vickie Ginder (in the orange hat) and Lanette Bronson, who was the project manager for her group, help the kids with their team-building exercise.

best plan for connecting their region to the city and the best materials to use to build their infrastructure.

After parents and students explained what they did for Bring a Child to Work Day to their teachers, some

teachers wanted the curriculum for their own classes.

Contrary to what our kids might believe, spending a day with their parents really can be educational!

12



Keith Duvall helps his son with his asphalt cookie.

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D8

Springfield Area

I-44/Route 266 Rebuild Key Part Of 'Airport Access' Project

by Angela Eden

Reconstruction of the Interstate 44/Route 266 interchange is a major component of the project to provide access to the new Springfield airport terminal.

The revamped interchange, enhanced as a west-side gateway to the metro area via Route 266/Chestnut Expressway, will help handle the increased traffic expected for the Springfield-Branson Regional Airport as well as for growing western Greene County.

The project is made possible by a four-way partnership – MoDOT, the city of Springfield, Greene County and the Springfield-Branson Regional Airport.

District Engineer Kirk Juranas said the interchange will feature a rehabilitated bridge with greater strength to handle more and heavier freight loads in the area's commercial zone.

"It connects two modes of transportation (air and highway) that are important to today's just-in-time delivery system," Juranas said.

Construction began in January, but the many rainy days early this year slowed progress.

The contractors will "be out there six or seven days a week to catch up when the weather breaks," said Senior Construction Inspector Steve Howell.

At the I-44/Route 266 interchange, the bridge deck and 16 girders will be replaced, westbound ramps reconfigured and traffic signals installed. A mile-long section of Route 266 will be relocated 450 feet north of the existing roadway between I-44 and the new Airport Boulevard.

Airport Boulevard will be a two-lane road between Route 266 and the terminal. A five-legged roundabout will be built where the road intersects Route EE and Farm Road 124. A bridge will span the BNSF railroad tracks.

Prime contractor: APAC Missouri for low-bid \$11.9 million.

Scheduled completion: December 2008.

Terminal opening: February 2009.

TRAC Volunteers Honored

by Bob Edwards

The reward for participating in the Transportation and Civil Engineering program comes in seeing something click in the eyes of a prospective engineering student, District 8 Transportation Project Designer Stacy Reese said.

"Even if you inspire one student, it's well worth it," Reese said. She works in the outreach program along with Transportation Project Designer Will Walker and Senior Highway Designers Julie Haden-Stiles and Aaron Jaeger.

The effort that has gone into sparking interest in engineering among middle and high school students, including females and minorities, has resulted in recognition for District 8. The four engineers earned the statewide Excellence in TRAC Award for 2007 given at MoDOT's Diversity Conference in March. The district also won the award in 2006 for 2005 activities.

Most of the TRAC volunteers' visits were to Republic Elementary and Senior High and Buffalo Prairie Middle School in Buffalo.

"We usually go to math classes," Haden-Stiles said. "That's something kids think they're never going to use again. But we ... show how we use it on a daily basis."

Activities include making "asphalt" cookies and building magnetic-levitation cars, measuring bridge deflections and using motion detectors to graph time and distance.

"It's a lot of hands-on activities," Reese said.

Safety is stressed too, especially seat-belt use and work zone awareness for the older students, Haden-Stiles said.

It's very important, she said. "So many of them are just beginning to drive."

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Bob Edwards

D8 at Work

Inspecting the damaged southbound Route 65 bridge over Route 60 in Springfield (top photo) is District Bridge Engineer Darin Hamelink, in bucket, with help from Springfield Senior Maintenance Worker Doug Durham, operating lift. Steel girders were hit by an oversized load. Repairs were being scheduled.

Checking plans on the I-44/Exit 127 interchange project in Lebanon (middle photo) are Buffalo Senior Construction Inspector Craig Huckaby, center, and Senior Construction Technician David Evans, right, joined by Gaines Construction's Luke Martz.

During Students Go to Work Day (above), Assistant Right of Way Manager Malissa Julien, center, guides students from Portland Elementary School in Springfield as they are challenged to plan a project with the least impact on private property. The annual citywide educational program is sponsored by the Springfield Public Schools with support of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce.

A striper with Maintenance Crew Leader Jim Mezel at the wheel (below) paints centerline stripes on Taney County Route P south of Hollister.



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D9

South Central

Going Green Goes Over Big in District 9

Environmental responsibility is a MoDOT Value taken very seriously in the South Central District. The recent focus on going green put a spotlight on several practices already in place and inspired those passionate about the environment to join forces in the name of recycling.

According to South Central District General Services Manager Jacky Traw, several items are, and have been, recycled or reused for some time now. “We strive to be very responsible and are always looking for more items to recycle,” he said.

Items recycled include: used oil, paper, aluminum cans in areas, light bulbs and 12 volt and 14 volt batteries. Scrap iron is collected and sold to the recycling center. Tires are re-treaded and used again, then recycled. Computers are either recycled or donated to schools in need of additional PCs. Finally, rather than throwing away many items, the procurement staff posts them on Gov Deals and brings money back into the district.

The theme is spreading. After a small article announcing the increased focus on being environmentally responsible ran in the district newsletter, Senior Materials Inspector Curtis Dowden answered the call to action. He placed recycling containers in the district complex.

Dowden’s church has started a recycling program to support mission work including providing school supplies to underprivileged children in Morocco who otherwise would not attend school, drilling wells for clean water in western Africa through the Friends in Action program and remodeling a compound where ministers can be trained in Chame Panama.

Dowden said they are hoping to get 25 cents per pound. “All of the proceeds will go to the projects,” he said. “It may not seem like this will add up very fast, but you must remember how far money goes in third world countries. We appreciate all the help in reducing the amount of plastic that is going into the landfills.”

Senior Traffic Specialist Kim Hilburn, who already had recycling efforts under way in the northern part of the district, was supportive of Dowden’s efforts. She offered to help coordinate in her area and pursued sources for additional containers.

In addition, Hilburn brought a recycling expert in to speak to the district Employee Advisory Extension Council. City of Rolla Solid Waste Director Brady Wilson shared sample-recycled products and offered direction for establishing a recycling program at MoDOT.

Many are getting on board and the green theme is spreading to additional areas. Informative signs are being posted with the recycling bins and employees have

been asked to bring forward any additional ideas for going green.



Take Our Children to Work Day Gives Hands On Experience

A new twist was put on introducing participants to the work performed at MoDOT during Take Our Children to Work Day activities in April. Interactive stations were set up in the Willow Springs Maintenance Building where kids could really get into their work.

Risk management conducted a safety relay where adult/kid teams competed against one another. They had to race to a table of safety apparel items where

they correctly put them on and took them off, then back to the starting line in the shortest amount of time. First place winners were Intermediate Traffic Technician Kelly Martin and son, Jacob. Second went to Assistant Right of Way Manager Brad Newberry and daughter, Brett.

Another activity consisted of building a bridge of dry spaghetti and marshmallows and then testing its strength by placing marbles two at a time in a plastic bowl placed on the top of the bridge. Landon Rodgers, son of Senior Community Relations Office Assistant Natalie Rodgers, teamed up with Community Relations Specialist Brandi Tune and took away top honors with an impressive load of 72 marbles.

At the Roadsides station, kids could get their hands

dirty planting redbud trees in MoDOT mugs. They also learned about the types of plants along Missouri roadways.

Maintenance was a big hit with remote control dump trucks set on a road

course for plowing snow. Each child raced their adult partner and combined times were compared to determine the winning team, which was Willow Springs Maintenance Worker Troy Gilley and daughter, Hailey.

Also a hit with the group was the chance to win 100 Grand (a candy bar, of course!). A MoDOT version of Who Wants to Be A Millionaire tested the MoDOT knowledge of all participants with a 100 Grand bar as the prize.

At the end of the morning, a group photo was taken and the children joined their adult partner for an afternoon of learning what role they play for the MoDOT team.



Assistant Right of Way Manager Brad Newberry and daughter, Brett, participate in the safety relay.



Landon Rodgers, son of Senior Community Relations Office Assistant Natalie Rodgers, watches his bridge as the marbles fill the cup.



Josh Rutledge (left), son of District Planning Manager Chris Rutledge, and Jacob Martin (right), son of Traffic Technician Kelly Martin, plow snow with remote control dump trucks.

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D10

Southeast

Operation Orange Efforts Aglow in Southeast Missouri

Operation Orange was in full swing during National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week April 7-11. District 10 asked cities, businesses and organizations to partner to raise awareness of work zone safety. These groups offered to turn their landmarks and outside building lights orange.

Groups that participated this year in District 10 included: City of Cape Girardeau, Cape Girardeau Career and Technology Center, Drury Southwest Signs, Missouri State Highway Patrol Troop E in Poplar Bluff and Sikeston, Poplar Bluff Chamber of Commerce, Pemiscot County Courthouse, city of Farmington and the MoDOT District Office in Sikeston.

In addition to the many area businesses and organizations that “went orange,” another important Southeast landmark also gleamed orange as part of

Operation Orange -- the Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge in Cape Girardeau. A special Operation Orange Bridge Lighting Ceremony was held at the Old Mississippi River Scenic Overlook to honor the men and women who serve the public in work zones and to remind us all of the importance of slowing down in work zones.

“There is nothing more important to us than making sure that people get safely through our work zones as we improve their travel and that our employees get safely home after a job well done,” said MoDOT District Engineer Mark Shelton. “Anything we can do to remind people of the importance of slowing down, staying alert and obeying the work zone signs can truly save lives and it is worth any effort.”

Another work zone safety effort that took place in District 10 was the annual

Work Zone Safety Poster and Coloring Contest. To help with this effort, students from Southeast Missouri were asked to create their own artwork to help explain the importance of work zone safety. Twelve elementary schools and 33 day-cares participated in the contest this year and proved they understand why slowing down in work zones is so important.

“Each year, the students continue to impress us,” said Community Relations Manager Angie Wilson. “They realize what is at stake in our work zones.”



During the Operation Orange Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge Lighting Ceremony, eight work zone channelizers each held a hard hat, vest, and name plate representing the lives lost in work zones in D10.

To help reiterate the work zone safety message, the first place winners and their schools were rewarded with interactive work zone safety assemblies, where they actively participated in an educational work zone obstacle course.

District Fundraising Success

During Public Service Recognition Week, District 10 employees were recognized for their terrific service to Missourians; but it didn't stop there. District 10 enhanced the week by adding a little friendly competition among departments, all for a good cause.

Each manager at the district office was asked to have fundraisers to try to raise money for the district's Share the Blessing program, which helps District 10 families in time of need. But here's the twist...each manager was paired up to compete against another manager,

and the one that raised the least amount of money would perform karaoke in front of all employees during the Governor's extended lunch hour. In addition to the great entertainment, more than \$5,500 was raised in the process.



Above: Although raising more than his competitor, District Engineer Mark Shelton, a.k.a. Guns N' Roses' Axl Rose, still volunteered to be one of the many performers for Share the Blessing karaoke.



District Engineer Mark Shelton presents the Share the Blessing Committee with a check for more than \$5,500. Committee members are, from left, Construction Project Office Assistant Denise Hopper, Customer Service Representative Connie Robinson, Senior Office Assistant Karen Williams, Facility Operations Supervisor Dave Fleming.

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Two D10 Projects Receive Awards

Maple Street Improvements
Improvements to Maple Street/Route 67 in Farmington were recently honored with an Award of Excellence from the Transportation Engineers Association of Missouri. The work was selected in the new construction small project category at TEAM's annual conference. The Maple Street/Route 67 project included constructing a ramp to allow Maple Street traffic access to northbound Route 67.

“The project team managed to design, acquire right of way and construct the needed northbound on-ramp at Maple Street in less than a year, and for only 40 percent of the original project's cost estimate for this improvement,” said Project Manager Andy Meyer.

The project team included: Rachel Blalock, Sherry Glastetter, Michael Harris, Dale Kinneman, Matt Malone, Andy Meyer, Tim Richmond, Connie Roe, John Tutt, Tonya Wells, Angie Wilson and David Wyman.

I-57 Work Receives Award
A research project on Interstate 57 in Mississippi County was one of four

pavement projects recently honored with a design award by the Precast/Pre-stressed Concrete Institute.

The awards program recognizes design excellence in precast concrete design

for structures built across North America. Awards are given to showcase the best in class for a wide array of buildings, bridges, and custom solutions. The I-57 project was honored in the custom solution category.

The project included reconstructing a 0.3-mile section of the northbound I-57 lanes west of Route 105 to Route 105 at Charleston. The pavement was replaced with precast pavement panels.

“We were happy to get the opportunity to try this method with the I-57 improvements,” said Project Manager Eric Krapf. “Our job

was only the third of its kind in the nation at the time of construction.”

The project team included: Mike Chasteen, Nathan Conner, John Donahue, Darius Dowdy, Terry Fields, Stan Johnson, Lynelle Luther, Dewayne Robey and Jason Williams.



Chief Engineer Kevin Keith, right, presents Project Manager Andy Meyer with the Maple Street/Route 67 Improvement Award.



From left, Senior Highway Designer Mike Chasteen, Project Manager Eric Krapf and Transportation Project Designer Jason Williams were part of the I-57 team that won an award for design excellence.

Connections

The mission of *Connections* is to be a monthly source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide. It is distributed to MoDOT employees and retirees.

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Additional copies are available upon request. Suggestions, questions and comments are always welcome.



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Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.



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Top 10 Work Zones to Look Out For in 2008

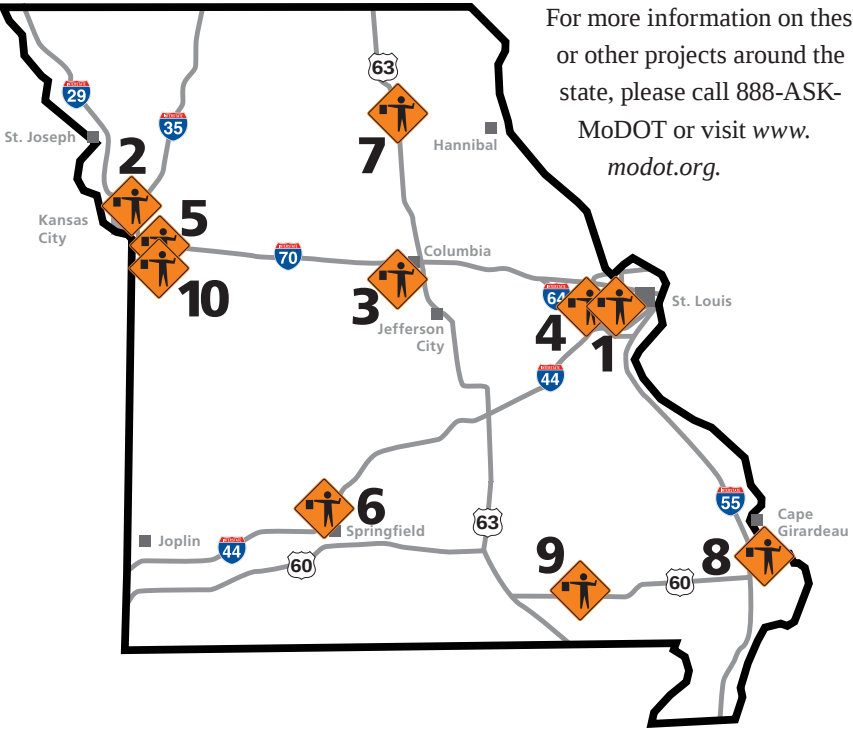
by Jeff Briggs

Memorial Day has passed and schools are closed for the summer, giving way to the travel season when millions of motorists hit the road. But this year they'll discover numerous highway work zones and delays, because the Missouri Department of Transportation is in the middle of a very busy construction season, with hundreds of work zones active throughout the year.

"Missouri's roads are getting better in a big way this year," said MoDOT Director Pete Rahn. "But that means there will be growing pains for the next few months. We've got some big projects planned that will require motorists' full attention."

To help travelers prepare for what's ahead, MoDOT has put together a list of the state's top 10 work zones to look out for, ranked in order of impact.

For more information on these or other projects around the state, please call 888-ASK-MoDOT or visit www.modot.org.



2008 Top 10 Work Zones

- 1. St. Louis – Interstate 64** – I-64 is closed, in both directions, from I-270 to I-170. Includes work on several cross streets that will close or have reduced lanes for the duration of the year. The Hampton interchange will close in September 2008 and reopen in May 2009. Additionally, other ramps and bridges will be closed throughout the year.
- 2. Kansas City – KCI/CON: Interstate 29/35 reconstruction** – Interstate 29/35 from Route 210/Armour Road to the northeast corner of the downtown Kansas City central business district loop will have restricted lanes and various ramp closures through 2011.
- 3. Columbia – Interstate 70, from Route 740 (Stadium Blvd.) in Columbia to the Missouri River Bridge at the Boone/Cooper County line** – Westbound lanes will be reduced for resurfacing work. Work will begin in June and end in late 2008.
- 4. St. Louis – Route HH from Kehr's Mill to Baxter Road** – Widening the road to three lanes. Permanent road restrictions are in place. Construction runs through late summer 2008.
- 5. Kansas City – I-70 Bridge over Manchester Trafficway** – Bridge rehabilitation and redecking at Manchester Bridge, which will require three weekend closures and detours of traffic.
- 6. Springfield – I-44/Glenstone Avenue (Route H) interchange** – The ramps at the interchange will be rebuilt, the Glenstone Avenue bridge over I-44 replaced and Glenstone Avenue (Route H) widened between I-44 and Valley Water Mill Road. Work scheduled summer 2008 through fall 2010.
- 7. Iowa Line to Boone County – Route 63** – Four resurfacing projects will upgrade 63 miles of this major corridor across Schuyler, Adair, Macon and Randolph counties. Along with resurfacing the driving lanes and shoulders, these Better Roads Brighter Future projects include centerline rumble stripes on two-lane sections and edge line rumble strips on two-lane and four-lane sections. Projects will be completed this fall.
- 8. Mississippi County – Interstate 57** – Southbound I-57 will be resurfaced with concrete and new shoulders added from the Illinois state line to two miles south of the Route 105 exit near Charleston. Both northbound and southbound traffic will be reduced to one lane with southbound traffic diverted to the northbound lane. Work is ongoing to late summer.
- 9. Van Buren to Willow Springs – Route 60** – Four-lane expansion work will continue throughout Carter, Shannon and Howell counties with final completion of the entire corridor expected by the end of 2009. Projects include grading and paving, box culvert construction, and the building of a five-lane section through the community of Mountain View.
- 10. Kansas City – Route 71** – Resurfacing of mainline and outer roads from Blue Ridge Boulevard in Grandview to 155th Street in Belton. Work also will begin on interchange replacements at Route 150 in Grandview, Route Y in Belton and a new interchange at about 187th Street (North Cass Parkway) in Cass County.

Encourage Risk and Accept Failure



"Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."
--Will Rogers

This is one of 18 MoDOT Value posters available through Community Relations. For more information, go to the Community Relations page on the Intranet at wwwi.